

CDE *Instructor* *Bulletin 00-01* *July 1, 2000*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR BULLETINS

Over the past several years the Office of School Transportation (OST) has been seeking ways to better communicate with state certified instructors working in the field. Currently, OST staff members attend DTACs, (semi-organized local or regional instructor groups), workshops, district in-service days and conferences. Often we are made aware of instructors who for reasons beyond their control were unable to attend such meetings and subsequently unaware of sometimes critically important changes in laws, regulations or policies. This lack of knowledge and understanding could potentially have catastrophic results effecting the drivers they train and the organizations they represent.

The new "Instructor Bulletin" system is another attempt, along with the OST web page (www.cde.ca.gov/sfdiv/bus), to inform instructors of changes in the Department procedures, policy, and opinions along with proposed changes in both regulation, and statute. Instructor bulletins will be posted on the OST web page, and OST staff will handout these bulletins at the traditional instructor training venues.

There are many excellent sources of information for instructors. The OST Instructor Bulletins will focus on the Department of Education's area of expertise and responsibilities. Such areas of focus will be the instructor's Classroom Manual, the Behind-the-Wheel Guide, T-01 cards, documentation opinions, selection and training of delegate behind-the-wheel trainers and instructors, etc. We are not attempting to be all encompassing in our efforts to provide instructors with new information affecting our industry. The commitment the OST has made is to making every effort to keep the state certified instructors in California informed of significant changes brought about by the Department of Education.

Any questions regarding the "Instructor Bulletins" should be referred to the California Department of Education's Office of School Transportation at (916) 375-7100.

Note: Communication is a partnership, a two way street in which the OST and the instructor have a responsibility to stay informed. In order for an instructor to be truly effective they must have the latest information regarding the subjects they instruct. Conversely, the OST needs to know what is happening in the field, please keep us informed with what is happening in your area and how we are doing. Together we can keep the passenger transportation system in California the safest form of vehicular travel in the nation.